

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed March 8, 2010. Claims 11-14 and 16-28 remain pending in the application and claims 11-14 stand rejected. Claims 16-28 were withdrawn in view of a Restriction Requirement.

Applicants thank Examiner Octavia L. Davis for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, David W. Dorton, during the personal interview conducted May 25, 2010. During the interview, a proposed amendment to claim 11 was discussed with respect to the references of record. The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendment appeared to overcome the rejections based on U.S. Patent No. 4,401,911 to Anderson et al. Claims 11 has been amended herein in accordance with the personal interview, and new claim 29 has been added. Claims 11-14 and 16-29 remain pending in the Application after this amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the personal interview and the following remarks.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,401,911 to Anderson et al. Claim 11 is the only independent claim of this rejected group and has been amended herein to recite "measuring the force required to break the ball off of the substrate," in accordance with the personal interview. Applicants assert that amended claim 11 is in condition for allowance because Anderson '911 fails to teach or suggest the combination of steps recited in claim 11, including "measuring the force required to break the ball off of the substrate,"

as discussed during the personal interview. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claim 11 be withdrawn.

Claims 12-14 each depend from independent claim 11 and are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 12-14 also be withdrawn.

New Claim

New claim 29 has been added by this Amendment and depends from independent claim 11. Support for new claim 29 can be found with reference to pending claim 28. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by new claim 29. Applicants further assert that claim 29 is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11. Early and favorable indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims

Claims 16-28 were withdrawn for allegedly lacking unity of invention. Claims 16-26 each depend from independent claim 27. Independent claim 27 is directed to apparatus including structure corresponding to the method steps of amended claim 11. Independent claim 28 is directed to a method of testing the strength of the bond between an electrically conductive ball and an electronic substrate, including method steps that correspond to steps recited in amended claim 11. Claims 16-28 now have

unity of invention with claim 11 and Applicants respectfully request rejoinder and examination of claims 16-28.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks set forth herein, Applicants believe this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any matter requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the issue may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due as a result of this communication. However, if any fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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